

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A media playback system comprising:
2 a search module that signals a user-query to a first network site to receive a search
3 result, and in response to receiving the search result, identifies a first link
4 contained in the search result that is selectable to open media files; and
5 a media player coupled to the search module to automatically play back streaming
6 media contained in a first media file of the first link contained in the search
7 result.
- 1 2. The media play back system of claim 1, wherein the search module includes a
2 parser to parse the search result for the first link.
- 1 3. The media playback system of claim 1, wherein the search module searches a
2 media directory comprising a plurality of addresses, each address locating a network site
3 for accessing a media file, the search module retrieving from the media directory at least a
4 first address for the first network site based on the user-query.
- 1 4. The media playback system of claim 3, wherein the search module searches the
2 media directory via an HTTP interface.
- 1 5. The media playback system of claim 1, further comprising a user-interface to
2 receive the user-query, and to signal the user-query to the search module.

1 6. The media playback system of claim 5, wherein the search module signals the
2 user-query to the first network site including one or more search fields for determining the
3 search result.

1 7. The media playback system of claim 6, wherein the search module signals the
2 user-query to the first network site including one or more search fields, the one or more
3 search fields being selected from the group of search fields consisting of an artist name, a
4 media title, a genre of media, or a type of media file.

1 8. The media playback system of claim 1, wherein the search module includes a web
2 browser component, and the search module accesses a first web site in response to the
3 user-query.

1 9. The media playback system of claim 1, wherein the search module signals the
2 user-query to the first network site to identify the first link contained in the search result
3 for opening media files containing audio digital recordings.

1 10. The media playback system of claim 1, wherein the search module signals the
2 user-query to the first network site to identify the first link contained in the search result
3 for opening media files containing video and/or audio digital recordings.

1 11. The media playback system of claim 1, wherein the search module signals the
2 user-query to a search engine of the first network site in the form of a uniform resource
3 locator.

1 12. A media playback system operated on a terminal coupled to a network, the media
2 playback system comprising:

3 a search module that signals a user-query to a plurality of network sites to receive a
4 plurality of search results, and in response to receiving the plurality of search
5 results, identifies a plurality of links that are selectable to open media files; and
6 a media player coupled to the search module to automatically access and load the
7 media files of the plurality of links.

1 13. The media playback system of claim 12, wherein the search module identifies a
2 first link from a first network site, and a second link from a second network site, and
3 wherein the media player automatically accesses and loads a first media file of the first
4 link, and a second media file of the second link, so as to continuously and sequentially
5 playback streaming media from the first link and the second link.

1 14. The media playback system of claim 13, wherein the first network site has a first
2 domain address, and the second network site has a second domain address that is different
3 than the first domain address.

1 15. The media playback system of claim 12, wherein the search module formulates the
2 search query into a network query directed to one or more of the network sites.

1 16. The media playback system of claim 12, wherein the search module formulates the
2 search query into a plurality of network queries, each of the plurality of network queries
3 being directed on one of the plurality of network sites.

1 17. The media playback system of claim of claim 15, wherein the search module
2 formulates each network query so as to include a uniform resource locator including
3 metadata information specific to the corresponding network sites.

1 18. The media player of claim 17, wherein the search module formulates each network
2 query into the uniform resource locator, including an address to the corresponding network
3 site, and arguments to search for streaming media on the corresponding network site.

1 19. The media playback system of claim 12, wherein the search module signals the
2 search results to a playlist module, the playlist module arranging the plurality of links from
3 the search results into a designated order, each of the plurality of links providing a
4 network address for a corresponding media file, the playlist module signaling the plurality
5 of links to the media player in the designated order.

1 20. The media playback system of claim 12, further comprising a user-interface to
2 receive the user-query.